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## The Aurora 13.2

Iowa State Agricultural College

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THE AURORA

IOWA STATE  
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

APRIL, 1885.

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# THE AURORA

"SCIENCE WITH PRACTICE."

Vol. XIII.]

Iowa State Agricultural College, April, 1885.

[No. 2.]

## HOG AND HOMO.

BY HOMO.

When beauty lies around us in such large measure as it does in every situation in life, it were inexcusable not to give it some intelligent recognition. We are, it is true, pledged to the utilities; we are sons of the soil, and are accustomed to count that agreeable to the eye which represents so much solid value now or hereafter to be converted into wealth. A corn-field, with dewy-tasseled ears bending from the stalk, and waving its green streamers to the music of the south wind, is a beautiful sight. Who has not walked amid the furrows with a kind of veneration for the tall, stately wilderness of the "maize," and felt a rapture in the rustle of its blades very nearly akin to the wild worship which the savage tribes were wont to bring to this plant!

But now a farmer stands on a hill-side, and looks down on the far-sweeping acres of the green growing corn—all his, and all to be filled out plump in the ear, and then being harvested to be converted into pork.

That crop may make him rich. Hogs are an enormous ingredient in a nation's wealth. Hogs are not to be despised, and all these oceans of corn are to be turned into hogs. Moreover a mortgage is to be lifted, and a farm cleared from debt. There is also, now, springing up in this farmer's home a most interesting group of beautiful daughters and stalwart sons, and these are to be ministered unto by these oceans of corn. But the corn must be first transmuted into hogs, and these countless hosts of hogs driven and freighted must find their way at last to the shambles in the infinite markets of the world, and give back the farmer—what? Money? Doubtless. But the money will go into more corn, and the corn into more hogs, and so on in an ever varying round of money and hogs. Is the farmer to beat round in this gross tread-mill forever? Does he himself propose such a destiny as the end of his toil?

O, yes, these great material interests are not to be underrated. Come, now, do not look down derisively on the hog. Those cornfields which we have just now spoken of as deserving our

religious awe, would not cover their million acres but for the hog, the prospective receptacle of at least three-fourths of the corn. Then there were no railways pouring the commerce of three continents through these prairies, and delivering our pork to the ends of the world. No banks; for what after all are banks but monetized hogs. No thriving villages; for these spring up on the prairie where the hog-trains scream a halt. No immigrant boom; no stately school-house buildings, and church spires piercing the sky. In short the whole machinery of civilization, with its industries, its arts, its sciences, even the finer ramifications of its social and political institutions, rests with so heavy a bulk upon the hog, as the temples of ancient Nineveh rested upon the winged bull, that the absence of that animal here on the prairies would leave us a waste.

We must give the hog his due. He is a useful animal, and there is a jewel in his mouth. But is it proper that a cultivated man should live for the hog? That is a fair question when one has honestly settled on its moral scope. There is after all an immense and untraversable distance between a man and a hog; and yet the fact remains—if I am in error I hope to be set right—that some men are so devoted to the hog, and that kind of coarse emolument that the hog brings, that they come to be *hoggish* and perceptibly *styish* in all their ways. So many pounds of flesh, for so many

ducats. No doubt. And it is simply as a symbol of money that the animal is beloved. But where the money has replaced the hog in the affections of the man, and he consciously gives up all his energies to that, the case is in no essential respect different, the man is transformed into a brute, and he is practically one of Circe's swine.

A money grabber is called a hog, with more propriety than the spontaneous epithet would at first suggest. He has the greed of that omnivorous beast. He roots and grunts forever among the rubbish and filth of human necessity, and lies down at last to wallow in the dirt. Now there is no objection to hogs, but it is a most lamentable thing to see a man turned into a hog. The metamorphosis, we are inclined to think, is common. Greed, an insatiate desire to get, and get, and get, and no sense of the dignity and divinity of use; no neighborly feeling other than to tusk every competing snout out of the trough; no public spirit; no love of home, but devotion rather to the live stock that may be driven to the scales; no taste for the beautiful; no craving for the true—this is to be a hog.

Now in all this we insist, it is the human hog, and not the legitimate animal, against which our resentments are aroused. A man can get no moral contamination from the hog. But for the congenial filth of the creature he has a fairly respectable standing in the animal world. It is not inconceivable that a swineherd should

sing love ditties to his "sweet Amyrillis," or that the prodigal, reduced to the dire extremity of eating with the hogs, should be taken with all the high aspirations that repentance implies; and this fairly infers that the hog business is just as legitimate and manly as any other in which mortals may engage, and that when a man turns out a human swine, it is himself and not his business that is to blame.

### THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH.

The infinite complexity of nature is ever growing into a new development which acted on by existing forces is destined to become the source of innumerable products of the future. Each new thread introduced into the texture of that endless web woven in the noiseless loom of time, alters the pattern. Variation, like a streamlet running from a fountain, broadens and deepens the onward moving river. The district nourished by it is widened, as it flows with the rush and roar of worlds into the ocean of progress.

Thus it has been since the birth of time. As we turn over the leaves of the earth's primeval history, as we interpret the hieroglyphics of the ancient past, as we glance at the phantasmal hues of the restless present, we find this same ever-beginning, never-ceasing change. The onward movement is from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous, from the simple to the complex. It is seen in the organic and inorganic worlds as well as in the

constantly varying forms of animal and vegetable life.

During the lapse of ages old formations are worn down, and new ones are deposited. The dense forests and the compact bogs are transformed into basins of coal; and the incandescent rock is the slag of bygone years. With a changing atmosphere and decrease of temperature, land and sea perpetually bring forth new species of plants, insects and animals. Infusorial shells are metamorphosed into chalk and flint; sand, into stone; stone, into gravel. Strata become contorted and seas fill up. Sands are alternately upheaved and depressed. Where now tower the summits of a luxuriant country teeming with modern activity, there once the fathomless ocean, rolling and surging in its tempestuous night, held sway. And where once a vast continent stretched its immense plains to the light of heaven there remain but a few lonely islands to mark the mausoleums of its submerged mountains.

Not only is this true of the earth, but it extends to worlds and systems of worlds beyond its confines. Orbits vary in their forms; axes, in their inclinations; suns, in their splendor. Fixed only in name the stars are incessantly changing their relative positions. New stars suddenly take their place in the zenith, increase, and wane. The members of each nebula, suns, planets and their satellites are sweeping forever onward into unexplored infinity.

Strange would it be indeed if, amidst the multiplicity of transitions, man alone were unchangeable. But man is not constant. He follows the variableness exhibited so clearly by kingdoms of which he alone is king. Between the unkempt and homeless savage and the Shakespeares and Newtons of a civilized state, there exists a boundless disparity. The physical contrast of race, form, and color, is only equalled by the difference in their moral and intellectual qualities. The keen sight of the one is more than balanced by the intellectual vision of the other. Humanity undergoes the mutations of every nation and climate. Comparing the grotesque frescoes of the Egyptians, or the unshaded drawings of the Chinese, with the matchless art of the Europeans shows clearly the difference in the perception of the races. Should we contrast the sculpture of Mexico, or Hindoostan, with that of Athens it would prove unfavorable to the former's sense of the beautiful. Gazing with horror at the Hindoo mother as she casts her child into the Ganges, we instinctively compare her superstitious conceptions of worship with the holy relations between the Christian mother and her God.

The society of primitive man was a chaos. Every man is a laborer and architect, hunter and warrior. The life of every woman is cast in the same mold. Every family is independent and, except for protection and aggression, each might as well

live in seclusion. One man has special talent for a certain work. He performs that to the exclusion of others and what is the result? A first cause has set in motion the wheels of civilization. The work of the great civilizer has begun. As it advances, it increases in velocity and momentum. We attempt to follow by its results and are lost in the infinite complexity of revolution. We return and find one with a mind stronger than others. His authority is shared by others scarcely less inferior, but soon the contrast between the governing and the governed is made apparent. Supreme power becomes hereditary in one family and others exist but to serve its head. They attribute divinity to their ruler and religion becomes a co-ordinate species of government.

The records and traditions of olden times tell us that the first rulers were regarded as divine. Their maxims and commands were held as sacred by their descendants who each in his turn was promoted to the pantheon of a race of sub-gods of which the most ancient was supreme. For centuries the supreme ruler is both king and priest. For generations, the civil and religious laws travel the same path. In the more advanced nations these controlling elements begin to separate and from a common root with them springs another element manifest in ceremonial customs and manners.

The originally homogeneous social mass has developed into the governing and the governed. At the same time,

the latter has differentiated into Church and State; and from both has descended a less definite species of government which rules our daily action. Each in itself is subject to successive differentiations. In the course of ages there arises a highly complex political organization. By its side has grown and flourished an equally complex religious system, while society is ruled and governed in its minor actions by an aggregation of customs, manners and temporary fashions.

Ever since his fall man has worshipped many gods. Of these, some have been human, others, material. As a result we have the numerous religious beliefs of to-day. Each has been evolved from some creed of the past, but many have been so differentiated that their root is difficult to discover. The number of those who do homage to material gods are gradually declining. The worshippers of natural objects are decreasing. The lands where adoration is paid to human beings are rapidly passing into the unknown.

When man pitched his tent upon the earth, an altar to the true God before him stood. An unseen hand pointed out the way and a voice was heard to say, adore. Less than nineteen centuries ago a teacher came from God and scattered in rugged Galilee the seeds of eternal life. Watered by the dews of heaven they germinated with marvelous power. Christ's victory on Calvary was but the begin-

ning of successes the news of which will resound through the Universe as the ages roll along. They will increase in power and strength until brother shall not say to brother, "know ye the Lord?" But all shall know him from the least to the greatest.

Their sacred truths are not in conflict with the law of change. They are not overthrown by the inductions of science. All true research has demonstrated them more forcibly. They have passed through the scathing fire of critics for nineteen hundred years as gold from the furnace, brighter and purer than before.

The fact that every cause produces more than one effect, that every force produces more than one change, does not solve the great questions with which Philosophy of all ages has been perplexed. The mystery of the origin of man remains just as it was. We may reduce the equation to its lowest terms but we can not find the unknown quantity. The true Christian does not fear the investigations of science, and he who does is the worst of infidels. The sincere man of science, content to follow when evidence leads, becomes more and more convinced that the problem of the Universe can not be resolved. He finds himself in a complexity of changes of which he can determine neither the beginning nor end. He runs back on the Nebular Hypothesis, finds the earth a molten mass and then propounds the wherefore. Looking



at the future, he can assign no limit to the grand phenomena ever unfolding before him. If he searches within, he perceives that both terminations of the thread of consciousness are beyond his grasp. He can not bring into recollection when consciousness commenced nor can he analyze that which is passing. In all directions his investigations ultimately force him to confront the unknowable.

It is true, in coasting along the shore of the finite, that "now we see through a glass darkly;" but there will come a time when we will traverse the trackless and chartless sea of the infinite and then shall we see as "face to face."

## SCIENTIFIC.

### THE PANAMA CANAL.

The opening of a canal through the neck of land connecting North and South America is probably the greatest engineering enterprise ever undertaken thus far in the history of the world. Taken as a political and economic question the immensity of its importance is easily seen, while the engineering skill required for its construction must surpass any that has yet been exhibited.

The opening of the Suez canal shortened the route somewhat between the Atlantic Ocean and the East Indies by saving the journey around the cape of Good Hope. But this journey by no means compares with that re-

quired to double the "Horn." In the Western Hemisphere we have an impassible barrier extending from the North Frigid almost to the South Frigid Zone and separated from the latter only by a narrow strait which is one of the most dangerous places for navigation on the globe.

In the former case there was simply a ditch to be cut across a low plain, while in this case there are to be encountered almost impassible obstacles in the shape of rivers and mountains at every step, each of which requires the greatest engineering skill to successfully pass it.

The importance of having this waterway has been recognized for three and a half centuries. Balboa, in 1513, first put this scheme on foot, but his death put a stop to it for a time. Afterwards, Cortez caused a careful survey to be made of the isthmus of Tehautepec with the view of making a canal but was prevented by the Emperor of Spain who took the government of Mexico from him.

During the sixteenth century four different methods were proposed, viz: First, from the Gulf of Uraba to the Gulf of San Miguel; second, through the Isthmus of Panama; third, along the San Juan River and through Lake Nicaragua; fourth, through the Isthmus of Tehautepec. The project then rested somewhat until the eighteenth century from which time until now various routes have been proposed and each has had its friends and enemies.

At the present time there are three principal routes proposed, viz: the Panama route, the Nicaragua route, and the ship railway across the Isthmus of Tehauntepec.

I shall confine myself in this paper to the Panama route.

In 1875 Mr. Ferd. de Lesseps of Suez canal fame expressed an opinion that the canal should not be a lock canal as had been contemplated but should be a sea level canal as in the case of that at Suez, and that the Isthmus of Panama was the proper place for it. To this end he called a congress to convene in Paris. This congress met on the 15th of May 1879 and was composed of 135 members, seventy-four of whom were from France and sixty-one from other countries. Of them the greater number were engineers. M. de Lesseps was chosen chairman and after considerable discussion a sea level canal via the Isthmus of Panama was decided upon, and a company organized for its completion with M. de Lesseps as president. This is composed principally of French stockholders who have unbounded confidence in their leader and will likely furnish him with any reasonable amount of means he may ask. There is much dispute in regard to the merits of the enterprise between parties who are interested in this route and those who are interested in others.

I shall not enter into this discussion but shall give the facts as nearly as I have been able to learn them.

The canal extends from Colon on the Atlantic side of the isthmus to Panama on the Pacific side, a distance of forty-two miles. Beginning at Colon at the sea level it runs in nearly a straight line for nine and two-third miles to Dos Hermanos with an ascent of only twenty feet. From this point to Frijole which is seventeen and one-third miles from the mouth of the canal it has an average elevation of forty feet not including a hill of 165 feet in height. From this point to Marnei twenty-four miles from the mouth of the canal, the average elevation is fifty feet with three hills of 85, 100, and 118 feet. For the next three miles the average elevation is fifty-five feet with a hill of 168 feet. From this point to Culebra thirty-four miles from Colon the line passes through a series of hills varying from a 100 to 200 feet high and at Culebra reaches the elevation of 330 feet. Within the next three miles it descends to within thirty feet of sea level and continues to descend from this point to the sea level. In order to get sufficient depth for ships to enter from the sea, dredging must be continued to a point nearly four miles farther, or to near the islands of Perico, making in all a distance of forty-six miles from Colon. The ports of Panama and Colon are to be dredged so as to give easy access to ships of the largest size.

Along the lowlands, the prism of the canal is to be seventy-two feet wide at bottom and 164 feet at water level. The slopes above water level

have not been definitely settled upon but are approximately known. It is estimated that the entire amount of material necessary to be removed is 156,000,000 cubic yards, 52,000,000 of which can be removed by dredging. A large basin is to be excavated near the middle of the canal for the passing of ships in transit.

The principal causes of difficulty will be from the rivers which it crosses. This difficulty will generally be obviated by cutting lateral canals pouring the two parts of the river together again. In the case of the Chagres however, which ordinarily has a flow of about 450 cubic feet, but in cases of great freshets sometimes reaches the amount of 56,500 cubic feet per sec. and which it would be impossible to let into the canal without dredging it, a dam will be built and the water let out gradually by means of a side canal. This dam will be built between two hills and will be 492 feet at the base and will reach the height of 150 feet. The water retained in the space above the dam may reach thirty-five billion cubic feet. The lateral canal will carry off 14,000 cubic feet per sec. It is expected that at times the level of the water behind the dam will reach from 100 to 200 feet above the level of the canal and that the lateral canal will be carrying this away at the rate of 14,000 cubic feet per sec. That this will be an enormous undertaking there can be no doubt, and probably M. de Lesseps will find the problem of the

Chagres river the most difficult one to be solved in connection with the canal.

The total excavations reported to Sept 1st, 1884, were something over 10,000,000 cubic yards. There were at that time from 15,000 to 20,000 laborers engaged upon the canal.

In regard to the health of these I am not able to state positively but it is certain that the death rate is quite large owing to yellow fever and other diseases common to that part of the country.

The resources of the company in Sept. 1884, were about \$72,000,000, and \$22,000,000 worth of machinery. By using all the men and machinery possible M. de Lesseps hopes to have it open for navigation by 1888, but many disagree with him declaring it will not be possible to open before 1900 if at all. L. G. B.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH NITRO-GETATINE SHELLS.

The second in the series of dynamite projectile trials, under the auspices of the Senate Military committee, took place Thursday, March 12th, on the banks of the Potomac, about half way between Georgetown and Chair Bridge. Four shots were fired with 6-inch shells, carrying eleven-pound bursting charges of nitro-gelatine, which contained 95 per cent. of pure nitro-glycerine. The range was a thousand yards, and the target was a perpendicular ledge of solid trap rock on the south bank of the river.

The first shell struck near the eastern margin of the ledge and exploded by concussion, shattering the face of the rock for a radius of about thirty feet, and carrying away several tons of debris, which were hurled for hundreds of yards up and down the stream. The second shell struck nearly in the centre of the ledge, exploding as before. It opened a cavity in the face of the ledge about twenty-five feet in diameter and excavated a pit six feet deep. Some of the fragments of rock from this explosion were hurled half a mile, one piece weighing nearly twelve pounds being thrown clear across the canal and lodging near a farm-house adjoining the Georgetown reservoir. The other shots were similar in their effects.

Notwithstanding the drizzling rain, quite a concourse of people assembled to view the trial, among whom, in addition to several officers of the army and navy, were the military attaches of the German, French, and Italian legations, and the Russian minister.

The trial was regarded as a success in every particular, and as a conclusive proof of the destructive power of six-inch shells. The members of the foreign legations present manifested great interest in the trial, particularly the Russian minister and the German military attache, who took copious notes of the proceedings. Some of the experts present expressed the opinion that any of the shells fired would have wrecked any unarmored ship afloat, and seriously wrecked the

strongest ironclad. The safety of the system of firing seems to have been assured by the two trials that have been made; the shell leaving the gun in every instance as safely as an ordinary powder charged shell would do. Ex.

Mr. W. F. Hamaday who was a student here about twelve years ago and who afterwards was employed by Ward & Co. of Rochester as taxidermist and collector, during which time he made a number of extensive collecting trips in different parts of the world, and who is now chief taxidermist in the national museum, has lately made a most liberal offer to our college.

He proposes to donate a representative series of the mammals and birds of Africa, Australia and the East Indies. A large portion of the specimens being of his own collecting during his trips in those countries.

The collection as it stands, unmounted, is valued at about \$1500, and contains among other very interesting animals the following representatives.

In the African fauna, a camel, giraffe and rhinoceras, and in the Australian fauna such mammals as kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, dasyures, koala, ornithorynchus, echidna, fruit-eating bats, etc. etc., and of birds the lyre-bird, emu, mustard, parrots, birds of paradise, strygops, etc.

Such a collection would be of greatest value to our students in zoology, and it is to be hoped that the conditions imposed by Mr. Hornaday in his

proposition, which cannot be considered as other than eminently proper ones will in no way interfere with the acceptance of his munificent offer.

A RECENT French invention enables divers to descend to the depth of eleven hundred feet.—*Eng. News.*

RECENTLY, at Louisville, Ky., after several hours of dark fog, a drenching shower took place, during which small fishes—minnows—fell to the ground.—*Am. Eng.*

MR. ALEXANDER AGASSY has resigned his position as a Fellow of Harvard college. The resignation was accepted by the corporation with great reluctance. Ex.

VARIOUS rumors are in circulation on the Atlantic coast in regard to the financial condition of the Panama Canal Company. De Lesseps however, refuses to be interviewed. It is said that some of the contractors have stopped work for lack of payments and that only 6,000 men are at work.—*Eng. News.*

A WELL of "fine lubricating oil" has been found ten miles south of Sander, near Ft. Washakie, Wy., by a syndicate of Omaha capitalists. It is said that at a depth of eighty-two feet a well gushing 100 barrels per day was struck. Prospecting is going on in other parts of the territory.—*Scientific American.*

AMONG the new applications of cotton is its use, in part, in the construction of houses, the material employed for this purpose being the refuse, which, when ground up with about an equal amount of straw and abestos, is converted into a paste, and this is formed into large slabs or bricks, which acquire, it is said the hardness of stone, and furnish a valuable building stock.—*Scientific American.*

# THE AURORA.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
LITERARY SOCIETIES  
OF THE  
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AMES, IOWA.

WE have never had much sympathy with that class of students which is perpetually watching for something in the management of the institution with which to find fault. Chronic grumblers, at college or elsewhere, are, though perhaps a necessary evil, an evil nevertheless. But there are a few things pertaining directly to the health and general welfare of the students which demand the attention of those in charge. One want which has been long felt by a large majority

of our students is regular meals on Sunday. So far as our observation has extended, about ninety per cent of the students who board in the dining hall come down to the nine o'clock breakfast on Sunday morning with a ravenous appetite, a headache, and a general feeling of *crossness* and debility, none of which symptoms are much decreased by the late dinner and the supperless evening. Indeed those of us are fortunate who do not feel all through the following day the effects of Sunday's irregularity. We are not a class of Ascetics, and it is rather difficult to bring an ordinary mind into a very devotional state while the body is constantly rebelling against the violation of physical laws. It has occurred to us that the order during chapel exercises might be considerably improved if the attentive powers of the audience were fortified by *two* moderate meals taken at regular hours rather than by *one* eaten in excess after fifteen hours fasting. We recognize the fact that those by whom our meals are prepared need a day of rest. It is of course evident that their time for rest must be so much less if we are supplied with three meals instead of two. Yet this class is small in comparison with the class which suffers from the irregularity, and the "good of the many" seems to require some arrangement by which Sunday will need to be a day of physical discomfort and perhaps permanent physical injury.

++++

To THE large and promising class

of Freshmen who have this spring entered our college halls, the AURORA as the organ of the literary societies, extends a cordial greeting and a hearty invitation to join one of the four societies which exist within the institution. The benefit to be derived from an active membership in a well conducted literary society can hardly be over-estimated. Even though you can never hope to astonish the world by flights of oratory, though your poetical talent is <sup>!a</sup> minus quantity, and you cannot even write an essay that does not sound (to your ears at least) "flat, stale and unprofitable," yet you will find yourself stronger and more self-reliant every time you perform any duty which the society has assigned you. The knowledge of parliamentary rules gained by participation in the work of a literary society is in itself a sufficient reward for considerable earnest effort on the part of each member. It is the almost universal testimony of those who have spent several years in college work that they owe to the literary societies a large share of the culture they have received. Therefore, speaking from experience and observation, we say to those just entering upon college work: Join a society. Don't join until you are sure which will suit you best, and don't let any one influence you against your better judgment. Finally, when you do join let it be with a determination that the society shall be better for having you in it, and that you will be better for having belonged to the society.

Surely a new era in the advance of woman's work is marked by the opening of the School of Domestic Economy in the Iowa Agricultural College. Eleven regular pupils have already been enrolled in this course, besides those who in the general course take domestic economy. Mrs. Ewing naturally feels encouraged over so bright an opening. With such prospects she can surely afford to be magnanimous to those doubters who predicted that she would have to wait several years for her first pupil. The aim and scope of the Department of Domestic Economy is in full accord with the motto of our institution, "Science with practice." Not only will the young women be required to give practical demonstrations of their knowledge of household arts but an earnest effort will be made to impress them with the dignity and attractiveness of household labor. The opinion is far too prevalent that domestic duties involve mere drudgery. No wider field can be found for the exercise of executive ability and inventive genius than the department of Domestic Economy. The great lack of systematized labor, of scientific research, and of useful inventions to improve the "Art of Living" calls for an improvement such as the "New Department" at South Hall is likely to aid greatly in bringing about. The field is a broad one and the opportunities for work are many and varied. Domestic Economy needs practical chemists; it needs inventors of labor saving

machinery; it needs medical knowledge; above all it needs that household work shall be systematized and elevated.

It is a strange fact that a large share of the work done in this department has been done by man. Though woman has often distinguished herself in many of the branches which have generally been assigned to the sterner sex yet she has been singularly backward in improving the department which, however much she may find to do outside of it, will always be considered pre-eminently her sphere—Domestic Economy.

There is no reason why experiments in cookery should not be as full of scientific interest as experiments in agriculture. Surely it is quite as important that the human race should be properly fed as that animals should eat the right kind of food in exactly the right proportions.

Henceforth the state will owe a debt of gratitude to the Iowa Agriculture College not only for the Veterinarians, the Agriculturists, and the Civil and Mechanical Engineers which it has sent forth but will also give thanks for the Domestic Economists.

#### GLEANINGS FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

From the *Wisconsin University Press* we learn that daily chapel exercises have been discontinued in that institution.

The *Illini* (Ill. Univ.) discusses the advisability of having a committee of

students confer with a committee of the faculty in regard to rules of government and brings up Harvard and Amherst as examples of the propriety of the plan.

The *Ariel* (Minn. Univ.) says, speaking of college government, "The tendency seems to be leading all colleges in this direction, viz: The idea of self government of the students."

The editor of the exchange department in the *Cornellian* discusses briefly and pointedly the relation of exchanges to each other and suggests a reform.

According to the Wooster *Collegian* the following letter was received by the President of that institution:—"I will acknowledge that I like your catalogue. \* \* \* I can go and have been where my collegiate expenses were not so great.—P. S. I have a lady friend who would like to attend school with me if you do not place too great restrictions on the female sex. Otherwise she and I will perhaps go to some other school. She at least where we can be free to act as a gentleman to a lady and not as a child to a child be forced to get the consent of the matron every time we wished to look at each other." Committee on rules please take notice. No institution can afford to lose valuable (?) students on account of trifles.

The Feb. *Simpsonian* contains Mr. Lockwood's contest oration.

Lasell *Leaves* contains the first chapter of a thrilling romance. We anxiously await the next issue.

The Delaware College *Review* informs us that that institution has a library of 12,000 volumes stored away in a cold, seldom opened room. "What enterprise!"

Other exchanges which we have read with interest are *The Laurentian* (Appleton, Wis.), *The Exponent*, (Epworth Sem.), *College Chips*, (Luther College), *The Portfolio*, (Parsons College), *The Skirmisher*, (Ky. Mil. Institute), *Literary Life*, (Chicago), and the *Womans' World*, (Chicago).

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## LOCAL.

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—Well!

—Here we are again.

—The eclipse is over with.

—The robins begin to chirp.

—March breezes are almost exhausted.

—We are going to have printed rules.

—And chapel before supper on Saturdays.

—New carpet, new rules, new 'bus, all new—except the one reciting, and he did not know.

—Dog went, dust pan went, proctor went, all went but the boy, and he too must go.

—State Superintendent J. B. Akers addressed the students in chapel March 15.

—The broom brigade has organized with an enrollment of twenty-four.

—"The lecture association will meet in the parlor, after chapel," is the most popular refrain of the day.



—The roads are getting smoothed down.

—The only time we have been surprised this term was when we learned there was no recitation room at the president's office.

—We recently heard it positively asserted that "Angels wear bangs now." Too bad! Some of us won't do for angels any longer.

—The worthy captain of Co. D. has a new method of growing "beautifully less." He moves Wright West-ward and calls that making himself "scarce."

—Prof. Wynn in last Sunday's sermon said, "Gossip is the gathering and retailing of facts of trivial importance." This is the first pointer secured against the local editor.

—Scene: Home of a Senior.

Mother, (with feeling) Now, George I haven't had a good hug since you came home. George, (who has been teaching in Illinois the past winter) Neither have I.

—If the planetary orb on which we live is at a loss as to the *exact* place in which to begin the process of total refrigeration we would like to suggest the geological recitation room.

—The Senior class has no hesitancy in affirming that it belongs to the branch Vertebrata in the animal kingdom, since it has been so satisfactorily demonstrated that "Josephus" has plenty of "backbone."

—The college band is more pretentious than usual this term. During the late cold weather they paraded the terrace to blow—their fingers; visited the armory to blow—their horns; then went up stairs and expected others to "blow" about the music they made.

—A marked companionship has

sprung up between Messrs. Wier and Lambert since their college days. They have supped at the same board all winter, have visited New Orleans together, and finally capped the climax by "lighting down" on the I. A. C. at one and the same time.

—The Sophmores have held the first of what ought to be a series of protracted class meetings. The Freshmen say they have a name but cannot pronounce it, and have concluded to wait until after the "christening," when their Soph. brothers will be glad to analyze it for them.

—Only quite recently we learned of the death of Mae Lyon, which occurred at Humboldt some two months ago. She entered at the I. A. C. in the spring of '83 and remained but one term. The sudden death falls with a severe shock upon her numerous friends at the college.

—The musical talent of the new class seems to be pretty well scattered among its members, in consequence of which the band has assumed unusual proportions. The choir, too, numbers more than heretofore. The singing, however, is not now confined exclusively to the choir, but new books have been procured, thus giving the congregation a chance to participate.

—An event which caused considerable excitement for a short time among the students was the discovery of an unknown man, lying in front of the new office building in an insensible condition. A crowd soon gathered about him and after he had partially recovered he was taken to the chapel, where the embryo doctors finished a diagnosis of the case. He was taken to Ames the same evening.

—The parlor rejoices in the possession of a new carpet and paper-hang-

ings, and the old sofa has been banished to some unknown region. The students do not seem to be much concerned in the matter, but if they could get up enough enthusiasm to resurrect that time-honored article of furniture the Alumni would probably contribute toward having it mounted in a glass case with an appropriate label. It could then go down to the future as "a 'special' relic."

—A few days ago Col. Kemple came from Marshalltown to negotiate for a place on the lecture list. For many reasons it was thought best not to allow a lecture to supersede the societies so early in the term. Although he may think his lecture on "The Mule" an appropriate one, the lecture association concluded that it had been the *mule* which had carried an immense burden of lectures and blame long enough, and was now ready to saddle all future responsibility on the committee beginning work the first of April.

--Again the messenger of death has hovered near us and leaving desolate the hearth of one of our Alumni has taken her who was once a student among us. Mrs. Lottie M. White, wife of W. U. White of class '82, died February 21, at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, of Ames. Lottie Gilbert entered with the class of '84, and remained but one year. She was married to Mr. White New Year's eve, '83, and has since resided in Dakota. While on a visit to her parents she was suddenly taken sick, and after a short but severe illness departed this life. Our sympathy goes with the bereaved husband and parents.

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## PERSONAL.

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Miss Marian Watrous visited her home in Des Moines the 15th inst.

An attack of quinsy has absented Geo. Goodno from class the past week.

C. M. Ross, who entered in the fall of '83, is once more a student of the I. A. C.

Miss Belle Gaston, of Ames, spent Friday of last week with her sister at the college.

Mrs. Prof. Andrews is agitating the question of a reading room for the young men of Ames.

Tina M. Benson has resigned her position in Ames and now teaches in Marshalltown.

Carrie Wattles, who belonged to class '86, writes from Carroll for fifty cents worth of AURORA.

C. J. Cotey makes but a short stay. He returns to his former place of occupation, Madison, Neb.

"Billy" Briggs was one of the first callers of the term. He came to see how his class looked as Juniors, and to leave his business card.

Kittie Gardner during her vacation has visited the Exposition and returned well satisfied with her pleasant trip.

W. E. Brooks, of the Freshman class, who has been quite sick ever since the beginning of the term, is slowly recovering.

W. B. Hunter is the latest arrival. His coming has been anxiously awaited by—his military company.

When F. S. Shoenleber arrives the Senior ranks will be filled for the spring term. He is expected the last of the month. We hear Frank's winter's work spoken of in very complimentary terms.

Class '85 misses Clara Porter very much. Her eyes weakened from over-study last fall and have not yet wholly recovered.

The Misses Lizzie and Lillie Keigley paid their respects to the college recently.

Della Forbes, who expected to return this spring, is unable to do so on account of her sister's illness.

Miss Etta McDonald visited her sisters, Mrs. Stanton and Miss McDonald of this place, the past week.

Mr. Cadwallader, one of '87's most promising members, is prostrated with a serious attack of lung fever. His mother is attending him.

Mr. Bolan, who labored with the present Juniors two years, is now preparing to accompany a traveling theatrical troupe. At last accounts his relatives were looking for him by telegraph.

C. J. Zenor is the first member of '85 who has seen fit to change his name. If it should happen to read C. J. (Zenor) Lee in the catalogue, the reason for the change might be attributed to leap year.

## ALUMNI.

'83 Miss Jennie Christman will teach near Carroll the coming summer.

'81 Mrs. Dora Osborn is quite sick, having been unable to leave her room for a couple of weeks.

'84 Fannie Wilson is teaching at Defiance, Iowa, where she will remain until June.

'83 Aggie West is still one of Ames' popular teachers. She now holds the position of assistant principal.

'84 Chas. Keffer is rustivating on the college farm, and to use his own phraseology he expects to "hang around" three or four weeks longer. At the end of that time he goes to

Minneapolis, Minn., in the capacity of Horticulturist.

'83 Miss Knapp reports a pleasant week of sight-seeing at New Orleans in company with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Curtis.

'84 W. H. Wier has a necktie just the color of his hair, and a position as principal of the Story City schools.

'83 At a recent meeting of the dairymen's convention at Algona, C. M. Doxsee of that place read a paper entitled "The Future Possibilities of Dairying."

'81 T. W. Shearer paid his respects to the college the very first Saturday evening that he could find a reasonable excuse for doing so. He hails from Des Moines, and when addressing him now "I say, Doctor."

'82 H. J. Gabel must have read the the story about "two birds and the stone." As he had to come out to the I. A. C. to subscribe for the AURORA he thought it would be a good time to introduce his sister to the new class as a fellow-student.

'84 Geo. Osborn acts in the capacity of house surgeon in the veterinary department. He moreover gives considerable time and attention to the management of a table of "Vets" in the dining hall.

'84 We are indebted to E. J. Nichols for the first Alumni call of the term. On his way here from Clear Lake he was detained a considerable length of time at State Center, but managed to reach the college without *other* serious mishap. He has returned to the farm, and in a few weeks we expect to hear of him "leaning on the plow-handle thinking how nice a post graduate course would be."

'84 F. A. Huntley put in an appearance just in time to receive honorable mention. He has been teaching this winter, but says he will do so no more, if he can help himself.

'83 C. H. Keigley still has charge of the school at Jewell Junction. Lizzie wishing to be in the vicinity of her brother has secured a school near there, on the banks of Wall Lake.

'84 F. L. Lambert intends to put theory into practice by embarking in life as a "tiller of the soil." By-and-by when his laboratory becomes thoroughly thawed out he will be glad to have it rain "nights and Sundays so he can get a little rest."

'84 Anna Henry having finished her school in Carroll county is now teaching in Ames as substitute for Mrs. Fitzpatrick who is unable to fill her place on account of sickness at her home. Miss Henry expects to finish a post-graduate course this year.

'84 Geo. R. Chatburn writes that as he has nothing else to do just now he thinks it would be profitable to read up a little on the doings of his *alma mater*. "Chat" has been teaching, but is now in Harlan trying to live on the proceeds of his winter's work. He expects to follow pedagogy for another year at least.

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## BOOK NOTES.

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**HOW TO BE YOUR OWN LAWYER—**  
A complete instructor for everybody in all the ordinary legal affairs of life. Adapted to every State and Territory. Plain and concise directions are given and forms furnished for the transaction of all kinds of business and the preparation of every description of legal document now in common use, such as Agreements, Bonds, Deeds, Leases, Mortgages,

Wills, etc.; also a Dictionary of Legal Terms and Tables for the computation of interest and for making a variety of other calculations, as well as valuable miscellaneous information, compiled and arranged under the supervision of prominent members of the New York Bar. Price \$1.50. M. T. Richardson, Publisher, No. 7 Warren street, New York.

**A NOTABLE BOOK.**—We have just received from the publisher a handy little volume entitled "*Gaskell's Hand-Book of Useful Information.*" It contains Calculations, Trade Secrets, Rules, Business forms, Legal Items, and Statistical Tables of practical value for Mechanics, Farmers, Lumbermen, Bankers, Book-keepers, Politicians, and all classes of workers in every department of human effort, from the household to the manufactory; and a compilation of facts for ready reference on almost every subject. It is in fact a portable encyclopædia.

No more valuable book has ever been offered, as it contains so much information of practical value in every day life. It is nicely gotten up, and will be sent to any address by mail, post paid, on receipt of 25 cents, by GEO. W. OGILVIE, publisher, 230 Lake St., Chicago, Ills.

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## CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

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C. E. UNDERHILL,	President.
P. W. COE,	Treasurer.
E. CRAWFORD,	Secretary.

## MEETINGS.

Sunday School every Sunday at 1 p. m., Prayer Meetings Sunday evenings at 7 p. m. in College Chapel; Thursday evenings, 6 p. m., in Room "43." A cordial invitation is extended to all.

## ALUMNI.

## OFFICERS.

- '74. O. P. McCray, President.  
 '72. E. W. Stanton, Secretary and Treasurer.  
 '72. John L. Stevens,  
 '73. D. A. Dent,  
 '74. C. D. Boardman,  
 '75. C. H. Lee,  
 '76. A. P. Barker,  
 '77. F. W. Booth,  
 '78. Emma McHenry,  
 '79. Alice Whited,  
 '80. Carrie C. Lane,  
 '81. R. J. Hopkins,  
 '82. C. F. Saylor, Vice-President.

## DIRECTORY.

## CLIOLIAN.

The Cliolian Literary Society is the only ladies' society in the I. A. C. This society holds literary sessions every Saturday evening. Its object is the improvement and culture of ladies in literary work. Visitors are cordially welcomed. Officers are as follows:

Lydia Schreckengast, President.  
 Lizzie Langfitt, Vice-President.  
 Esther Crawford, Recording Sec'y.  
 Emma Casey, Correspond'g Sec'y.  
 Ollie Wilson, Treasurer.  
 Hilda Becker, Chaplain.  
 Laura Gray, Usher.  
 Gertie Wynn, Sergeant-at-Arms.

## PHILOMATHEAN.

The Philomathean Literary Society is a society admitting to membership both ladies and gentlemen. Its regular meetings are held each Saturday evening of the college year. All are invited to attend literary sessions.

## LIST OF OFFICERS.

Anna G. McConnon, President.  
 G. W. Greene, Vice-President.  
 V. C. Gambel, Recording Sec'y.  
 Emma Porter, Corresponding Sec.  
 W. M. Hayes, Treasurer.  
 F. C. Faville, Librarian.  
 C. E. Underhill, Chaplain.  
 F. Wormley, Usher.  
 F. Graves, Assistant Usher.  
 F. Mally, Sergeant-at-Arms.

## BACHELOR.

The Bachelor Society is the only exclusively gentlemen's society of this college. It was organized July 16, 1870. Its object is the mutual improvement of its members in Science, Literature, and Art of Speaking. It meets every Saturday evening at 7:30, in Bachelor Hall. Its officers are:

I. B. Schreckengast, President.  
 J. B. Allen, Recording Secretary.  
 A. W. Sherman, Correspond'g Sec.  
 E. S. Richman, Treasurer.  
 A. E. Osborne, Chaplain.  
 E. S. Richman, } Serg'ts-at-Arms  
 W. H. Frater, }

## CRESCENT.

This is a society admitting both ladies and gentlemen to membership. Its object is the improvement of its members in literary work and parliamentary law. Its sessions are held every Saturday evening in Crescent Hall, to which all are cordially invited.

C. A. Cary, President.  
 H. S. Williams, Vice-President.  
 Harrie Hutton, Recording Sec'y.  
 J. James, Corresponding Sec'y.  
 E. Gray, Treasurer.  
 W. E. Gamble, Usher.  
 E. M. Miller, Librarian.  
 G. W. Sturtz, Sensor.